

MAY 11, 2005

# DESERT VOICE

## TRANSPORTATION EDUCATION

page 6



# CONTENTS

## DESERT VOICE

Volume 26, Issue 39

The Desert Voice is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of the Desert Voice are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government or Department of the Army. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the Coalition Forces Land Component Command Public Affairs Office. This newspaper is published by Al-Qabandi United, a private firm, which is not affiliated with CFLCC. All copy will be edited. The Desert Voice is produced weekly by the Public Affairs Office.

# 39



### Page 3 CG's column

Standards exist for all to follow. Whether you live in an open bay or a two-man trailer, you should use common sense to show respect for yourself and fellow Soldiers.

### Page 4 377th NCO, Soldier of year

Some insights from the 377th NCO and Soldier of the year. Also, the Combat Action Badge now recognizes all Soldiers who have engaged the enemy in battle.

### Page 5 Army CoS drops in

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker pays a visit the 106th Transportation battalion. Also, Camp Doha's Signal University brings the latest to signal Soldiers.

### Pages 6&7 Convoy live fire

Realistic convoy training prepares the 414th Transportation Battalion for dealing with Iraq's hostile roads.

### Page 8 Japan supports their own

Their greatest challenge is the language barrier, and they've solved that with an electronic Japanese to English dictionary. Also, a May 3 dust storm hit Kuwait with fierce, blowing sand.

### Page 9 In-country move

The 1st Battalion of the 178th Field Artillery pulled drove on with their mission as they moved their entire operation from Camp Buehring to Navistar, a move that will allow them to sleep in for more than an hour every day.

### Page 10 I got it at the PX

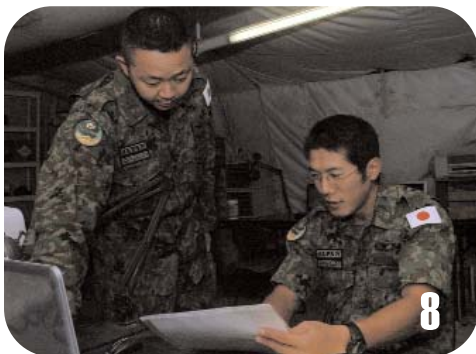
From all-weather copier paper to coin rolls, AAFES has everything you "need" and more.

### Page 11 Community Events

Bazaar, Tin Man race, Asian Pacific Month celebrations, Massage therapy

### Back page Troop submissions

Story by Petty Officer 2nd Class Gino Flores and a call for talent for MTV.



**CFLCC Commanding General**  
Lt. Gen. R. Steven Whitcomb

**CFLCC Command Sergeant Major**  
Command Sgt. Maj. Julian Kellman

**CFLCC Public Affairs Officer**  
Col. Michael Phillips

**Commander 14th PAD**  
Maj. Thomas E. Johnson

**NCOIC 14th PAD**  
Staff Sgt. Sheryl Lawry

**Desert Voice Editor**  
Sgt. Matt Millham

**Desert Voice Assistant Editor**  
Spc. Aimee Felix

**Desert Voice Staff Writers**  
Spc. Curt Cashour  
Spc. Brian Trapp

**14th PAD Broadcasters**  
Sgt. Scott White  
Spc. Charles Spears

**14th PAD Graphics Artist**  
Sgt. Sergio Exposito



#### On the Cover

Convoy live-fire training helps troops better protect themselves.

Photo illustration by Sgt. Matt Millham



# Common sense and consideration of others should drive our barracks standards

Barracks is a word all of us understand. There's a reason for that: It's another word for home.

All of us – from the trainee who is taking a physical fitness test at Fort Knox, Ky., this morning, to me, the CG of Third Army/CFLCC – have pushed our boots under a rack after a long day then hunched over a footlocker to write a letter home. Barracks living, in fact, is such a constant in Army life that the two can't be separated; even our country's military literature, television and film – even comics – are filled with its scenes and characters.

But my point today is not to remind us of a long-standing method for housing Soldiers. It is to point out that while the physical aspects of barracks living may differ from post to post or station to station, the philosophy doesn't change. The barracks is a home and a Soldier has the right to be safe, secure and as comfortable as leaders can safely and reasonably make them.

Respect for others and good, old-fashioned common sense should dictate what goes on inside the walls of our barracks.

Some of the Soldiers in this theater live – quite literally – in windowless mud huts. Others are paired in rooms that house two, three or four Soldiers. Sailors call berthing on a ship “the coop” because space is at

such a premium. Meanwhile, some of the servicemembers assigned to Operation Iraqi Freedom live in the palaces of the former regime, and some, especially those in transit, sleep side by side on cots in warehouses, the jumbo-size of barracks life.

But the open bay remains the most well-known part of barracks life, and there are thousands of our troops living that way. That style includes the most recent addition to barracks life in this theater – the pre-cast buildings that house up to 58 Soldiers.

No matter where you have been assigned to, where you store your personal gear or where you sleep – from the berthing on the USS Harry S. Truman to a general purpose tent at Camp Navistar – a list of standards remains in place that may vary from place to place and should be accepted and fully understood.

Nothing about that is complicated for it amounts to this: While we're living in a barracks environment we need to keep in mind that we aren't by ourselves; privacy and space may be limited, but our respect for others should not have constraints.

A barracks is not an apartment. It is not a



**Lt. Gen. R. Steven Whitcomb**

condo. It is not a place where each individual develops their own standard. A barracks remains its dictionary definition: A place where members of the military are lodged.

My number one priority is health provided through good living conditions.

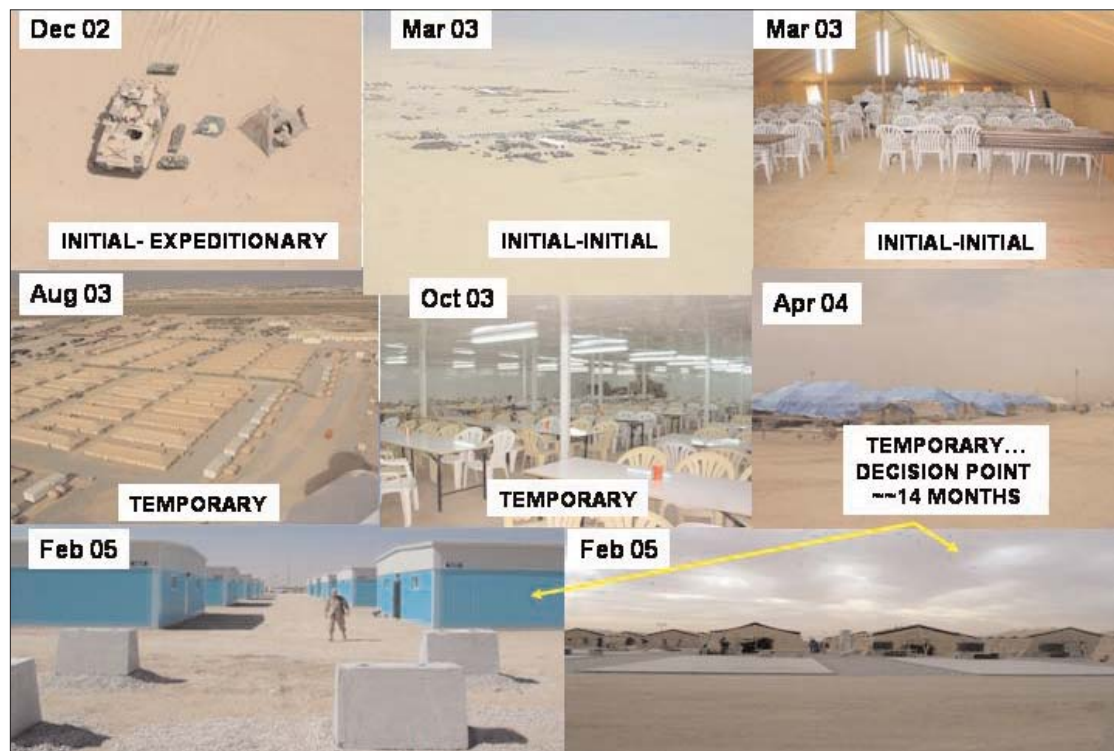
The standards for lodging may shift depending on where you are living. A Soldier in an eight-person tent may have a much more

stringent standard than a Soldier living in a trailer at Camp Virginia. That does not mean the Soldier living in a trailer in Camp Virginia is allowed to violate the premise that is the keystone to successful barracks life: Standards, respect for others and adherence to the rules of safety.

The point is, a standard exists; leaders explain the standard and leaders enforce the standard. It means that as conditions change, so does the application of the living standard.

However, safety, health and respect for a fellow Soldier is not negotiable, nor is it measured on a sliding scale.

Respect for others – one of the Army values – never varies, and it should never be allowed to fall or fail.



## The evolving face of facilities and construction

The process to move between the various stages of housing standards involves many factors ranging from financial decisions and environmental considerations to the life cycle of various types of housing and force protection. In most cases, a point is reached after 14 months to decide whether the next stage in housing will be pre-cast concrete buildings such as at Camp Arifjan's Zone 6 or temper tents with concrete foundations and environmental controls such as those at Camp Virginia.

# 377th NCO, Soldier of the year

**Story and photos by Master Sgt. Hak Haskins**  
377th Theater Support Command public affairs

One of them is having a typical career Army year. The other enlisted when his wife didn't.

On May 1, Sgt. 1st Class Irene Oliver, a member of the 43rd Area Support Group, and Spc. Albert Keever Jr., of the 64th Medical Detachment (Veterinary Services), were named top noncommissioned officer and Soldier of the Year for the 377th Theater Support Command, respectively.

The two Soldiers took center stage in a group of 14 who were interviewed at the command's headquarters by the command sergeants major representing the 377th and six of its major command elements; the field was divided evenly between NCO and Soldier (specialist and below) candidates.

Oliver fought to control her emotions after Maj. Gen. Paul E. Mock announced she had bested the field. She was surprised, she said later, but knew she was prepared. That's partly because the award was the second time in two months Oliver had accelerated to the top of the field. In March she passed a series of arduous interviews to be accepted in the Sgt. Audie Murphy Association.

Keever, too, was surprised by Mock's announcement. After all, about two years ago he had little intention of joining the Army. When his wife made an appointment with a recruiter, he tagged along. She decided it wasn't something she wanted. He enlisted.

Both Soldiers received Army Commendation Medals; all 14 candidates received certificates and coins.

Except for the announcement of the winners, the board's results remain confidential. Both NCOs and the specialists – the rank held by all seven of the board's Soldier of the Year candidates – were asked between 30 and 50 questions that covered the gamut of Soldier skills and training.

Oliver's interviews for the Audie Murphy Association "helped keep me calm" during the NCO of the Year session, she said. "I always want to do things one time, and I want to do it right," she said. "I want to know what goes on and how it goes on. The last thing I want to do is lead anyone the wrong way."

What challenge is next for the sergeant first class who joined the Army 14½ years ago? "I want to be a sergeant major and will keep trying everything I can and learning. For no matter what the situation I'm in, I can lead [Soldiers] the way they need to be led."

Keever's situation was one of self-motivation: He began preparing for Soldier of the Quarter boards in December, but did not participate in one until late March. "It's still sinking in," Keever said. "But I'm pretty much thinking it's a big accomplishment and I have nothing to compare it to" in his short Army career.

Keever began studying the basics, including leadership, counseling and first aid. As the boards approached he continued adding to his knowledge base by studying other areas. He hit the books two to three hours a day, he said.

"My mentality when I got here was to win some awards and going to the board would be the easiest. I was pretty confident I had all the knowledge, though I was stronger in



**Sgt. 1st Class Irene Oliver**



**Spc. Albert Keever Jr.**

some areas," he said.

His next stop will be the sergeant promotion board this summer. "That should be a breeze" compared to the Soldier of the Year board, he said. Both Oliver and Keever got

support from their units, including mock boards.

"Had I not won I would have been disappointed," said Oliver. "I would have felt I [had] let down my chain of command. They have been so supportive; they have been the driving force."

For tips on how to study for all types of boards or Army specialties, check out [www.armystudyguide.com](http://www.armystudyguide.com). The free site has links to dozens of Army-related websites plus an easy to use menu of special fields.

## Army announces combat action badge

### Army News Service

A Combat Action Badge will soon be available to all Soldiers who engage the enemy in battle.

Although the Close Combat Badge was once considered an option, Army leadership created the CAB instead to recognize all Soldiers who are in combat. They said the decision was based on input from leaders and Soldiers in the field.

"Warfare is still a human endeavor," said Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker, Army chief of staff. "Our intent is to recognize Soldiers who demonstrate and live the Warrior Ethos."

The CAB may be awarded to any Soldier, branch and military occupational specialty immaterial, performing assigned duties in an area where hostile fire pay or imminent danger pay is authorized, who is personally present and actively engaging or being

engaged by the enemy, and performing satisfactorily in accordance with the prescribed rules of engagement.

Commanders at the rank of major general will have the authority to award the CAB. The CAB is distinct from other combat badges, officials said.

The Combat Infantryman's Badge, or CIB, and Combat Medical Badge will remain unchanged, they said.

The Army will release an administrative message outlining exact rules and regulations for the CAB in the near future, officials said.

Although the final design of the CAB has not yet been released, officials said the award should be available this summer through unit supply and for purchase in military clothing sales stores.

For more information on the CAB, see the soon-to-be-operational CAB Web site at [www.army.mil/symbols/combatbadges](http://www.army.mil/symbols/combatbadges).



# Sending the right signals

Story by Spc. Curt Cashour

It was October 2003 and Spc. Carlo Lone was getting frustrated.

Serving near An-Nasiriyah, Iraq, the signal Soldier was faced with the task of using decades-old Army equipment to provide the Soldiers of Camp Cedar II with phone and Internet services. While he managed to get things working, the service was slow and unreliable.

"You can only hang so many phones off a switch," said Lone of the 63rd Signal Battalion, an active duty unit from Fort Gordon, Ga., deployed to Camp Virginia.

Lone wasn't alone in his feelings of frustration. Shortly after Operation Iraqi Freedom started, military signal officials realized that the switches and routers used for field-based signal operations weren't robust enough to handle the heavy volume of communications traffic produced at military base camps. To remedy the situation, the officials started integrating more advanced commercial technologies into the

OIF signal platform. Then came the Coalition Forces Land Component Command Signal University.

Founded in September 2004 by members of the 335th Theater Signal Command, a Reserve unit headquartered in Atlanta, the Camp Doha-based university provides instruction in more than a dozen aspects and applications of commercial communication platforms.

"When a signal unit comes into theater, we should be the first stop," said Master Sgt. Tracy Lee, university manager.

The university's classes bridge the gap between the field-based signal technologies servicemembers learn about in advanced individual training and the commercial technologies in use at base camps throughout the Central Command Theater, Lee said.

A retired first sergeant, Jerone Johnson knows all about the challenges facing military signal units. The commercial platforms currently used in theater offer increased speed, reliability and connectivity over military systems, said Johnson, an instructor at

the university.

"The old Army stuff was just that – old Army stuff. With commercial equipment, we have the ability to talk to everybody. It doesn't matter what branch [of service] you're in," Johnson said.

The Signal University is open to all servicemembers throughout the CENTCOM theater. Classes are free and consist of 40 hours worth of instruction. Course offerings include various facets of communication technology including Microsoft Windows XP, the Redcom IGX digital switching system, the Promina multi service access platform and Cisco network devices. Billeting is available at Camp Doha through the Doha housing office.

The university is scheduled to move to Camp Arifjan in July. Until then, however, classes are conducted in the basement of Doha's Building 28.

For more information or to schedule a class, contact Master Sgt. Tracy Lee at DSN: 438-6283 or [tracy.lee@kuwait.army.mil](mailto:tracy.lee@kuwait.army.mil).

## Chief of Staff visits troops in Kuwait

During a May 6 visit to Camp Arifjan, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker, second from right, sits at a briefing given by leaders of the 7th Transportation Group's 106th Transportation Battalion, from Fort Campbell, Ky.

Members of the 106th explained their mission to Schoomaker and shared unit statistics like how many mission miles the unit has covered and how many ambushes and improvised explosive attacks the 106th faced on their supply runs to and from Kuwait.

Schoomaker's visit included a luncheon at the Zone 6 dining facility with Soldiers and a Coalition Forces Land Component Command update. Camp Arifjan was the Chief of Staff's only stop in Kuwait.



Photo by Spc. Aimee Felix



Lt. Col. Chuck Prichard

A Soldier with the 414th Transportation Company, a Reserve unit from Orangeville, S.C., checks the roadside for enemy activity at the convoy live-fire course at Udairi Range. Since its inception, the course

has been modified several times to mimic the tactics and techniques of insurgents in Iraq. Some of the course's features include a mock vehicle born improvised explosive device and an overpass.

# Transportation education

Story by Spc. Curt Cashour

Convoy security. It's been an issue of concern for military planners since the blitzkrieg to Baghdad in 2003.

But as anti-U.S. insurgents plot new ways to attack our primary method of transportation in Iraq, Soldiers in Kuwait are hard at work perfect-

ing techniques to safely maneuver through the terrorist attacks.

Members of the 414th Transportation Company conducted convoy live-fire training May 4 at Udairi Range. An integral piece of the whirlwind of exercises servicemem-

bers must complete before heading into Iraq, the convoy training gave 414th Soldiers a taste of what awaits them north of the Kuwait-Iraq border.

Before making their way through the convoy lane, the Soldiers lined their vehicles up at the

range's staging area. Chatting as they wolfed down meals ready to eat, the troops readied themselves for a roughly 22 km journey through a mock city and back.

Minutes later, the vehicles were off, twisting their way through the course's narrow, winding roads and bullet-riddled cars. In some places, dilapidated buildings and portraits of harmless-looking civilians lined the sides of the road.

More often than not, the faux civilians were flanked by pop-up targets, which prompted steady streams of gunfire from the Soldiers of the 414th, a Reserve unit headquartered in Orangeville, S.C. Each target provoked a racket of gunfire that rang out from the Humvees and trucks rumbling along in the convoy.

The exercise culminated with a mock ambush scenario that involved a downed truck and a casualty. While most of the group guarded the perimeter for enemy activity, a small group of Soldiers placed the casualty onto a litter and loaded it into a Humvee. Then another group of Soldiers rigged a tow strap to the downed vehicle.

Each target provoked a racket of gunfire that rang out from the Humvees and trucks rumbling along in the convoy.



Once the convoy cleared the course, the Soldiers signaled for a medical evacuation helicopter.

Obviously, the convoy course was meant to simulate the dangerous back roads and village streets of Iraq – environments the 414th will soon encounter on a daily basis.

In the next few weeks 414th members will leave for Iraq, their Humvees and trucks in tow, to conduct convoy security missions. The dangerous mission in Iraq will be a world away from the daily lives the citizen Soldiers faced before deployment.

A married mother of six, 1st Lt. Adrienne Ethridge put her career as a mental health therapist and family life on hold for this deployment. Even though her husband had to quit his job to take care of the couple's children, he still supports her mission whole-heartedly, said 39-year-old Ethridge.

For Ethridge's kids, who range in age from one to 14, a year away from mom will undoubtedly be tough, but Etheridge said she and her husband made every attempt to explain to them the importance of her impending mission.

"We had a family meeting and explained to them what was going on in the U.S. and overseas. We told them there's other parents [in Iraq] as well," she said.

As unit members deal with personal family issues, 414th Commander Capt. Keil Scott, 36, has some familial concerns of his own. Because of previous activations, only 18 original 414th members are participating in this deployment. Scott and other 414th leaders have spent the past few months integrating 97 new Soldiers from Reserve units across 13 states into the unit.

The influx of new personalities and leadership styles sent Scott scrambling to build cohesion in

the ranks, but he credited the unit's rigorous train up with bringing the Soldiers together.

The group spent a month at Fort Bragg, N.C., training seven days a week in various tactics including convoy, ground assault and reflexive and defensive fire operations.

Sgt. Carlos McNeil usually serves with the 320th Combat Support Hospital out of Greensborough, N.C. On this deployment, the 27-year-old registered nurse will offer his services as a combat medic.

Since he joined the 414th March 10, McNeil said he has tried to impart the lessons of teamwork and attention to detail he learned during his 1999 deployment to Bosnia.

But McNeil isn't the only 414th Soldier with combat experience. Spc. Steve Bunker deployed to Kuwait during Operation Desert Storm. Back then, the landscape of the desert nation looked quite different than it does today, he said.

"When I got here, it seemed like the whole country was on fire," said Bunker, 38, who will serve as the commander's driver during this deployment.

Like all 414th Soldiers, Bunker put a lot on hold to do his part for the U.S. mission in Iraq. His yearlong deployment meant he wouldn't be around to run his hazardous materials handling business, which he sold prior to leaving the United States. But Bunker doesn't have any regrets. In fact, he said he plans to become a full-time Soldier after returning from his tour in Iraq.

"Anytime I can be a part of making somebody's life a little bit nicer, I feel like that's my job," he said.

**"Anytime I can be a part of making somebody's life a little bit nicer, I feel like that's my job." - Spc. Steve Bunker**



**Left: A typical convoy live-fire exercise at Udairi Range culminates in an ambush scenario that leaves participants with a downed vehicle from which troops have to unload a mock casualty. Above: Once the participants clear the ambush site, they have to call in a nine-line medical evacuation, mark a helicopter landing spot and transport the mock casualty to the helicopter landing spot using a litter.**

# Japan troops support their own surge

Story and photo by Spc. Brian Trapp

Japan rotated a new contingent of about 600 soldiers into the Al-Muthana province in southern Iraq, continuing their commitment to rebuilding Iraq through their ongoing humanitarian and reconstruction mission, but the soldiers didn't get to Iraq without help.

The Japanese army has a permanent presence in Kuwait, handling Japan's military deployment and redeployment operations and ensuring the deploying forces are trained for their mission. Once the troops move to Iraq, the support troops keep those in Iraq supplied for the mission, until they are ready to go back home to Japan.

"Sometimes [the job] is hard, sometimes it is easy here," said Japanese army Sgt. 1st Class Toshiyasu Michiue, a logistics support sergeant with the Kuwait detachment of the Iraq reconstruction support group. The work is slower "now that our soldiers are not here. Next week, a new unit comes to Camp Virginia, and it will be very busy."

When a unit is moving through Kuwait, the detachment prepares the troops for their

move to Iraq.

They coordinate the move of their equipment to Iraq and make sure they get the proper training. The detachment escorts them to the Udari Range complex for weapons training and to Navistar for vehicle training. They also take care of troops while they are in Kuwait, Michiue said.

The biggest challenge for the Japanese soldiers isn't the deployed environment, but communicating with the

Americans and speaking in a language that doesn't even share a common alphabet.

"The hardest part is the language, and I haven't met any American Soldiers who speak Japanese yet," Michiue said. In the middle of the interview, Michiue went into his tent and came back with an electronic Japanese to English dictionary to help break through the language barrier. It's a tool he said he uses often when working with the



The Japanese army Iraq mission patch.

Americans.

"Deploying is not hard," said Japanese army Capt. Yoshio Sakaguchi, a transportation officer with the Kuwait detachment. "I enjoy it, and I have learned various things from this trip like how to coordinate with other countries. It's a good experience. It's the first time for me, and maybe the last time too."

The detachment doesn't spend all of their time in Kuwait

though. About once a month they move forward to help the Soldiers in Iraq, said Japanese army Capt. Masashi Tamura, a training officer with the Kuwait detachment.

The Reconstruction Support Group of Japan, based in the Al-Muthana province in Iraq, repairs roads and water treatment facilities, builds schools, trains teachers, provides school supplies and repairs power plants around Samawah. The support group also sends medical supplies and equipment to several Iraqi cities. The Japanese commitment to rebuild the infrastructure of Iraq with the country's soldiers is augmented with a pledge of \$5 billion.

"I think that Samawah is better now that Japan is there," Michiue said. "I think the people are glad we are there, too, because many small children wave when they see us."

Tamura and Michiue only travel to southern Iraq, and they both said they didn't feel endangered there. Michiue likes to go because he doesn't have to speak English when he's working with the Japanese soldiers. On the other hand, Tamura doesn't necessarily look forward to his time away from the food at Camp Virginia. "The food in Iraq is bad," he said.

The troops in Iraq rotate about every three months, and the detachment in Kuwait is about four months through its six-month deployment. Already, they've handled four major influxes of Japanese troops, and before heading home they expect to manage one more major rotation, Sakaguchi said. "A lot of soldiers want to deploy here. It is very respectable to come here."

This is the first deployment for Tamura, who has been in the army for nine years.

"I like deploying. There is more honor," Tamura said. "It's exciting and there's additional money too." Tamura said he plans to buy a new car when he returns to Japan.

## Dust Storm

**Winds gusting to 33 knots May 3 whipped up a Shamal, or dust storm that buffeted the palm trees and flag in front of the Area Support Group-Kuwait headquarters building at Camp Arifjan.**

**The storm was caused by a low pressure system that pushed in from Iraq, intensifying the strong winds, said U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Frank Klein, a Coalition Forces Land Component Command staff weather officer.**

**The blowing dust in these storms is a mixture of suspended sediment that collects from everywhere the storm travels through, said Klein.**



Photo by Sgt. Matt Millham



# Packing up but not for home

Story and photo by Spc. Brian Trapp

A battalion that has driven more than 3.5 million miles during 2,500 missions will cut hundreds of man hours and thousands of miles from their mission in the coming months. All it will take is one 40-mile convoy.

The 1st Battalion, 178th Field Artillery, of the South Carolina National Guard, has been escorting convoys up and down Iraq's supply routes since October. The unit had been operating from Camp Buehring for months, but it is relocating to Camp Navistar to save time and wear and tear.

The move puts the unit at the gateway to Iraq, saving them an hourlong commute to Navistar. The move, which began March 15, is slated for completion May 15. The 178th has met the challenge of moving while continuing their mission, which is to protect the supply routes as convoy escorts.

Despite the inconvenience of the move, the benefits to the unit's relocation are clear. "Now, you can take two and a half hours off the Soldiers' day," said Master Sgt. Huger McClellan, a 178th operations sergeant. In order to make it to Navistar before the convoys, the escorts had to leave Buehring an hour and a half before they were supposed to be at Navistar.

The move also takes about 80 extra miles off the mission, many of them hard miles driving down the bumpy Alternate Supply Route Dallas.

**"Just with our presence there, there's a lot less attacks on the convoys."**

**- Capt. William Putnam**

Another benefit to the move is that if there are any last-minute holdups, 178th troops could go back to their tents and wait for a call on their radio, as opposed to having nowhere but truckside to kill time, said 1st Lt. William Hill, a platoon leader with A Battery, 1st Battalion, 178th Field Artillery.

While 178th troops came to accept the inconveniences of living at Buehring, they realized being so far from Navistar was a problem as soon as they arrived at Buehring months ago, said Capt. William Putnam, A Battery commander. The unit sent its concerns up the chain of command, and as its situation climbed the ladder, the solution became moving the battalion to Navistar.

But there wasn't space at Camp Navistar, said Lt. Col. Roy McCarthy, commander 1st Battalion, 178th Field Artillery. "There just wasn't room to put us any-



**Sgt. Chad Nabors, a route security sergeant with A Battery, 1st Battalion, 178th Field Artillery, screws on the barrel of a .50 Caliber machine gun that is mounted on one of the unit's trucks.**

where. The strength of the camp hasn't increased any. The 178th is filling room that other units left behind."

It became a waiting game. When the Operation Iraqi Freedom 2 units redeployed it was time to relocate the battalion.

The operations section drew from their field artillery experience and created a jump tactical operations center. To make the jump-TOC, the unit moved half the operations section to Camp Navistar. Once it was fully operational, the rest of the section moved to Navistar as well.

The whole process took about a week.

The biggest challenge was to complete the move without hindering the 178th's mission. "You can't stand down the mission," McClellan said.

The mission the 178th continued throughout the move is tremendously important to the war and to the drivers who depend on the 178th to protect them while moving much-needed supplies north.

"Just with our presence there, there's a lot less attacks on the convoys," Putnam said.

Because of the convoy escorts, the insurgents' attacks are less likely to be severe or followed up with a small arms attack, Hill said. Without convoy escorts, there would also be more IED attacks and hijackings, he said.

Last week, a team with A Battery was coming back from Camp Cedar to fuel its

trucks in Kuwait when it got a call to turn around because the 30-truck convoy it had just passed was being hijacked.

Somehow insurgents had pulled up alongside the convoy in a truck or a van and shot one of the foreign national drivers in the hand and took his truck. Then, the hijackers took off into the desert, but they got the truck stuck in the sand. The convoy escorts were in pursuit, so the insurgents abandoned the vehicle.

The 178th made it back to the site of the hijacking, secured the area and started the convoy back up on its way north. They also took the wounded driver back to Kuwait, so he could receive medical attention for his injury.

Even with the ability to quickly respond to situations like this hijacking, and with all the other advantages of the move, some Soldiers feel hesitant to leave Camp Buehring, Hill said.

The move is actually only popular with about half of Hill's Soldiers, he said. Some of the troops are apprehensive about living in Navistar's tents instead of the relocatable barracks they will leave behind at Buehring.

But the half looking forward to the move has been anticipating the prospect of getting to sleep in later. It's not much of a consolation though, because sleeping in for the convoy escorts means waking up at 5 a.m. instead of 3:30 a.m., Hill said.

Soldiers are expected to come around on their view of their new home once they see the benefits of living closer to work, like having more downtime when they're not on missions.

# I got it at the PX

If there's a better deal, we can't find it

By Sgt. Matt Millham



**\$9.99**

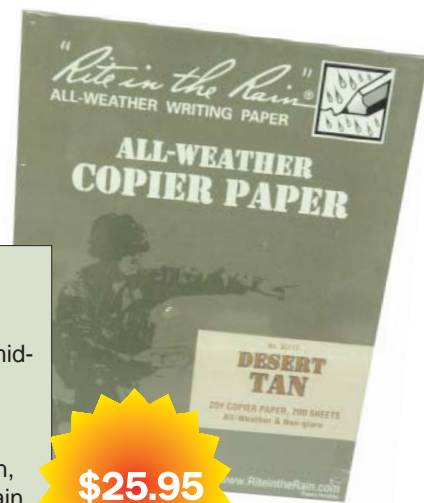
## Miracle of Aloe Miracle Foot Repair

The cream states "This unique, therapeutic formula contains 60% of the purest and most potent form of whole leaf Aloe Vera gel – Ultra Aloe." However, this claim is overridden by a later admission that the product's only active ingredient is a measly 0.1% Menthol. Nevertheless, the cream should be commended for its anti-discriminatory approach, which invites everyone, including diabetics, to employ it in the fight against foot odor.

## Rite in the Rain All-Weather Copier Paper

Imagine that you're a Ranger slogging through a swamp in the middle of a thunderstorm. You're miles from the nearest Office Max when a voice crackles over the radio. You have to produce 200 leave forms, pronto. You don't bat an eye. Why? You've got 200 sheets of all-weather copier paper in your rucksack. Panic sets in, though, after realizing that a copier capable of operating in the rain hasn't been invented yet.

**\$25.95**



**\$6.95**

## Bally's Sauna Exercise Suit

Are you carrying around extra hydration-related pounds you'd like to get rid of? Bally's Sauna Exercise suit helps you "shed water weight effortlessly!" by sealing in body heat to help your muscles stay warm. Though use of the suit has been proven to lead to heat stroke, its companion products, Bally's Bucket of Ice and Bally's Automated External Defibrillator, are still in the design phase.

## Operation Enduring Freedom/Camp Arifjan keychain

For those of us who believed we were supporting the war in Iraq, this keychain candidly asserts that we are, in fact, pulling rear duty for two wars at once. Getting past the disappointment caused by this realization is easy, though, after realizing the keychain's amazing capacity to hold keys.

**\$1.95**



**\$4.00**



## Magnif 100 Assorted Coin Tubes

Are your pockets dripping with all the coins you get from the cashier at the PX? Don't fret. Never short on irony, the PX offers this box of assorted coin tubes to help you "turn your loose change into meaningful dollars." A box of tubes that helps turn meaningless cardboard discs into actual change is not yet available.



# Community

## happenings for May 11 through May 18

### Arifjan

#### Wednesday

Country Western Night, 7:30 p.m., Zone 6 stage  
Reggae Night, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center  
Legs, butts and guts, 5:30 a.m., Stretch and flex  
8 a.m., Step Aerobics, 1 p.m., Circuit weight  
training, 3 p.m., Zone 1 gym

#### Thursday

Country Western Night, 7 p.m., Zone 1  
Community Center  
Cardio kickboxing, 5:30 a.m., Stretch and Flex, 8  
a.m. Circuit Weight Training, Zone 2 gym

#### Friday

ASG-Kuwait Basketball Championships, Zone 1  
gym (Call for info)  
Arifjan Boxing Team, 7:30 p.m., Zone 6 gym  
Salsa Night, 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community Center  
Lap swimming, 5 to 7 a.m., pool  
Interval training, 5:30 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.  
Zone 1 gym

#### Saturday

ASG-Kuwait Basketball Championships, Zone 1  
gym (Call for info)  
Audie Murphy Club study sessions, 3 p.m.,  
Building 508 Room 25B  
Country Western Night, 7:30 p.m., Zone 6 MWR  
stage  
Asian Pacific Heritage Month 5K run, Zone 1  
gym (Call for info)  
Circuit weight training, 5:30 a.m., 8 a.m., 1 p.m.  
and 3 p.m., Zone 1 gym  
Lap swimming, 5 to 7 a.m., pool

#### Sunday

ASG-Kuwait Basketball Championships, Zone 1  
gym (Call for info)  
Polynesian Paradise show, 7 p.m., Zone 1  
Community Center  
Salsa Night, 7 p.m., Zone 6 stage  
Lap swimming, 5 to 7 a.m., pool  
Cardio kickboxing, 5:30 a.m., Stretch and Flex, 8  
a.m., Circuit Weight Training, 1 p.m., Step  
Aerobics, 3 p.m., Zone 1 gym

#### Monday

Arifjan Boxing Team, 7:30 p.m., Zone 6 gym  
Lap swimming, 5 to 7 a.m., pool  
Legs, butts and guts, 5:30 a.m., Stretch and flex  
8 a.m., Step Aerobics, 1 p.m., Circuit weight  
training, 3 p.m., Zone 1 gym

#### Tuesday

Lap swimming, 5 to 7 a.m., pool  
Cardio kickboxing, 5:30 a.m., Stretch and Flex, 8  
a.m., Circuit Weight Training, 1 p.m., Step  
Aerobics, 3 p.m., Zone 1 gym

#### Wednesday

Country Western Night, 7 p.m., Zone 6 stage  
Texas Hold 'em Poker 7 p.m., Zone 1 Community  
Center  
Legs, butts and guts, 5:30 a.m., Stretch and flex  
8 a.m., Step Aerobics, 1 p.m., Circuit weight  
training, 3 p.m., Zone 1 gym

For more information call 430-1202

### Buehring

#### Wednesday

Softball league game, 4 p.m., (Call for info)  
Walking Club (5 miles), 5:30 a.m., command cell  
flagpole  
Massage Therapy, 9:30 a.m., MWR Tent 4

Aerobics, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., MWR Tent 4

#### Thursday

Karaoke Night, 9 p.m., MWR bunker  
Soccer league game, 4 p.m., (Call for info)  
Volleyball league game, 4 p.m., (Call for info)  
Walking Club (5 miles), 5:30 a.m., command cell  
flagpole  
Tae-Kwon-Do Class, 7 p.m., MWR Tent 1

#### Friday

Walking Club (5 miles), 5:30 a.m., command cell  
flagpole

#### Saturday

Bazaar, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., MWR Tent 1  
Tae-Kwon-Do Class, 7 p.m., MWR Tent 1

#### Sunday

Polynesian Paradise Show, 7 p.m., (Call for info)  
Bazaar, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., MWR Tent 1  
Walking Club (10 miles), 5:30 a.m., command cell  
flagpole

#### Monday

Softball league game, 4 p.m., (Call for info)  
Walking Club (5 miles), 5:30 a.m., command cell  
flagpole

Aerobics, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., MWR Tent 4

#### Tuesday

Soccer league game, 4 p.m., (Call for info)  
Volleyball league game, 4 p.m., (Call for info)  
Walking Club (5 miles), 5:30 a.m., command cell  
flagpole

Tae-Kwon-Do Class, 7 p.m., MWR Tent 1

#### Wednesday

Softball league game, 4 p.m., (Call for info)  
Walking Club (5 miles), 5:30 a.m., command cell  
flagpole

Massage Therapy, 9:30 a.m., MWR Tent 4

Aerobics, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., MWR Tent 4

For more information call 828-1340

### Kuwaiti Naval Base

#### Thursday

Tin man race, 6 a.m. - 3 p.m., Beach or Kuwaiti  
gym (Call for info)

For more information call 839-1063

### Navistar

#### Wednesday

Poker Tournament Practice, 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.  
Self Defense class, 9 a.m. and 7 p.m., basketball  
court  
Aerobics Class, 6 p.m., Game tent

#### Thursday

Bazaar, 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., basketball court  
Poker Tournament Practice, 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.  
Karate Class, 9 a.m. and 7 p.m., basketball court

#### Friday

MWR representative meeting, 1 p.m., MWR office  
Poker Tournament Practice, 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.  
Aerobics Class, 6 p.m., MWR game tent

#### Saturday

Poker tournament, 6 p.m. - 10 p.m., Rec. tent

#### Sunday

Poker tournament, 6 p.m. - 10 p.m., Rec. tent  
6 p.m. - 10 p.m., MWR game tent

#### Monday

Pool Tournament practice, 8 a.m. - 10 p.m., MWR  
game tent

Aerobics Class, 6 p.m., MWR game tent

Self Defense class, 9 a.m. and 7 p.m., basketball  
court

#### Tuesday

Pool Tournament practice, 8 a.m. - 10 p.m., MWR  
game tent

Karate Class, 9 a.m. and 7 p.m., basketball court  
Smoking cessation classes, 10 a.m., Rec. tent  
Education/Awareness/Prevention, 1 p.m., Rec.  
tent

Karate Class, 9 a.m. and 7 p.m., basketball court

#### Wednesday

Pool Tournament practice, 8 a.m. - 10 p.m., MWR  
game tent

Self Defense class, 9 a.m. and 7 p.m., basketball  
court

Aerobics Class, 6 p.m., MWR game tent

For more information call 844-1137

### Spearhead/SPOD

#### Thursday

Hip Hop Dance Night, 9 p.m., South DFAC  
Bingo Night, 7 p.m., Tent T-32 and 8 p.m., South  
DFAC

#### Friday

Ping Pong, 7 p.m., MWR area  
Movie Night, 8 p.m., Outdoor Movie Theater

#### Saturday

Movie Night, 8 p.m., Outdoor Movie Theater

#### Monday

Basketball, 6 p.m., MWR area

For more information call 825-1302

### Victory

#### Tuesday

Movie Night, 8 p.m. (Call for info)

For more information call 823-1033

### Virginia

#### Friday

Polynesian Paradise, 7 p.m., MWR area

For more information call 832-1045

## Doha/Arifjan Shuttle Schedule

Departs Doha Stop 1*	Arrives Doha Stop 2*	Departs Doha Stop 2*	Arrives Arifjan	Departs Arifjan	Arrives Doha
	0700	0715	0830	0545	
1015	1025	1040	1200	0845	1000
1445	1450	1505	1615	1630	1745
1900	1910	1925	2045		

\* Stop 1 is behind the Building 6 PAX Tent  
Stop 2 is between Buildings 28 and 31

**Are you holding an  
event you'd like to see  
listed in the Desert  
Voice?**

Send your event listings to  
the Desert Voice editor at the  
e-mail address listed on the  
back page of this issue.

# NAVSUP roadshow comes to camp

Story by Petty Officer 2nd Class Gino Flores

The Navy Supply Road Show opened its doors to Sailors involved in the supply community at the Camp Arifjan Zone 1 theatre April 22, providing a glimpse of events soon to come.

In an event that few may know of, the road show provided an insightful view of changes affecting the future of supply. The realignment of resources is minimizing the work force needed for the ships of tomorrow.

The Navy's supply force is preparing for the future by consolidating the supply community into two separate jobs identified as Personnel Specialists and Storekeepers.

Aviation storekeepers fall under the storekeeper job specialty. Although both jobs share some similarities, one focuses on the aviation specialty and the other on surface ships. The other supply jobs will all be included under the job of personnel specialist.

"It's all about having the right skills set in the right place at the right time," said Chief of Naval Operations Command Master Chief Petty Officer Daniel Warner of Naval Supply Systems Community.

As we move into the future, Sailors will have the ability to purchase items aboard ships using a cashless system of debit and credit, said Warner.

Preparing the "Sea Warrior" for the 21st century requires broadening the skill set of Sailors by cross training and combining education, experience and job requirements.

The objective is to make a hybrid Sailor flexible enough to meet the standards of the Navy of the future, said Cdr. Beth Howell, supply enlisted community manager of Naval Supply Systems Command.

The shifting and balancing out overmanned and undermanned rates will be controlled with incentives for having the required training and by shifting the workforce to

available billets with urgent need. Force shaping programs, compensation and assignment pay are some of the tools the Navy will continue to use to realign the work force to where the jobs exist. These tools will continue to be used to control manning levels by screening the quality of reenlistment.

Highly skilled Sailors in critical job assignments or undermanned areas will be offered bonuses as incentives to stay in the Navy and move on to assignments where needs exist.

For example, tomorrow's fleet will have fewer Sailors assigned to ships. Redesigning ships for automation and putting more emphasis on technology will allow for a smaller crew.

The crew of a destroyer is more than 300, but the ships of tomorrow will see fewer than half that number of Sailors. What used to be done by 30 storekeepers will now be accomplished by seven.

In addition, programs like the sea swap program will extend the time ships stay afloat in support of a mission by rotating Sailors on and off the command when the time comes to move to the next set of orders. This allows for a longer deployment and saves money in fuel costs since the ship does not have to return to homeport as often.

This is the message of Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark, who said we must be committed to building a Navy that

can maximize the capabilities of Sailors and minimize the total number on the payroll.

The vision is to have a senior enlisted petty officer capable of functioning as the supply officer with the proper accreditations. By moving more of the support structure ashore, manning levels on ships can be reduced, said Howell.

"It makes perfectly good sense requiring a higher level of education as you move up the chain of command," said Ruppert. "This will up the level of competition, recognize and promote the sailors who are willing to obtain the next higher level of training or education. This will in essence ready them for the added responsibility. Those who fall behind the curve and show no progress or motivation to step up to the plate will fall along the way-side."

## MTV wants your musical talent

MTV is in search of musically talented servicemembers in the Kuwait area. Any and all musicians, singers, etc., are encouraged to come forward.

Servicemembers interested in this opportunity should email CFLCC PAO broadcaster Sgt. Scott White at [scott.white@arifjan.arcent.army.mil](mailto:scott.white@arifjan.arcent.army.mil) or call at DSN 430-6364. This project is only in its early stages and may never get off the ground. However, the more entries received the greater the chances are of this project coming to fruition.

## Safety Corner

### Running

It is important to be safe when walking or running for exercise. Run or walk facing the traffic. Wear the appropriate clothing that will increase your visibility and reduce your chances of being struck by a vehicle. CFLCC policy requires you wear a reflective belt or vest. Wear light color clothing that can be seen at night as well as during the day if you are not wearing the issued military physical training uniform. Also, wear a cap, sunscreen and shades to protect yourself from the sun. To avoid injury, always be on the lookout for uneven surfaces, loose gravel and sandy streets. Also, avoid poorly lit areas, and run with a buddy. The use of headphones is prohibited while walking or running on the street.

For more information contact the 377th TSC Safety Cell's Maj. Nathan Phelps at 430-6113 or 1st Lt. Renee Surgi at 430-5414.

Send your  
submissions to:

**DESERT  
VOICE**

Editor  
CFLCC PAO/Desert Voice  
Camp Arifjan  
APO AE 09306  
[matthew.millham@arifjan.arcent.army.mil](mailto:matthew.millham@arifjan.arcent.army.mil)

Find us online at  
[www.dvidshub.net](http://www.dvidshub.net)